

INVEST IN WILLMAR BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

The Invest in Willmar Board met at 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 9, 2020 via GoTo teleconference.

Members present were: Matt Dawson, Mary Sawatzky, Denis Anderson, Jon Konold, Tony Amon, Shawn Mueske, Audrey Nelsen and City Administrator Brian Gramentz.

Also present were: Recreation Director Rob Baumgarn, Finance Director Steve Okins, Gretchen Otness, Administrative Assistant Janell Sommers and Shelby Lindrud, Journalist.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Dawson. Following review of the agenda, a motion was made by Tony Amon, seconded by Denis Anderson and passed to approve the agenda as presented.

A motion was made by Denis Anderson, seconded by Audrey Nelsen and passed to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2020 meeting.

Jon Konold updated the board on the meetings of the Recreation Fields subcommittee and architects. They have developed their project into two phases. Phase I their priorities are to complete the softball/baseball complex, two turf fields laid and lights installed. Alternates of additional lighting, scoreboards, and dugouts dependent on funding. Phase II being dependent on leftover monies and pending council approval of operational costs would be construction of the bubble. They are planning their community input meeting after the start of the New Year and moving forward with bidding in February/March. Tony Amon added they are meeting with the Stormwater subcommittee to discuss the movement of water to avoid future negative impacts to the city.

The board discussed the process for moving projects forward stemming from the Public Works/Safety Committee discussing the operational costs of the dome. Board Member Nelsen requested the presentation of the dome that was discussed at committee level be attached to these minutes for future reference. It was explained the subcommittee was using the council committee as a sounding board for feedback only in their process for guidance and now the subcommittee will finalize the plans and make its report to this board and then the process identified earlier of onto Park and Recreation, Public Works/Safety or Finance Committee and then City Council. The architect is currently in design development and the schematics will be sent through the process shortly. The priority list and presentation will be attached to these minutes for future reference.

Gretchen Otness spoke for the Event Center stating they are in the design and development phase and close to a final design which will be brought to the board in the near future. Board member Nelsen requested operational costs for the project be presented at the same time. City Administrator Gramentz pointed out the voters already approved these projects and the city needs to find a way to implement funding to operate these facilities.

Mary Sawatzky informed the board that the Swansson Fields subcommittee is working with the construction manager to come up with a plan to cut \$400,000 from the project and then they will

move forward. Council Member Nelsen expressed her concern for what is being cut and doing the project right.

Robbins Island update was given by Park and Recreation Director Baumgarn. He stated the group is currently working on shelter updates and contracting with Bolton and Menk for this aspect of the project. Council Member Nelsen expressed concern of spending money on Guri Shelter along with safety issues with the proximity of the shelter to the roadway.

City Administrator Gramentz gave a brief update on the Community Center noting staff has been working with Willmar Ten Investors on the legal aspects of the potential development. He anticipates something in the next six months which includes determining which location to build on.

Finance Director Okins presented the financial update and the funding for 2021. Discussions have been held with bond attorneys for timing of future projects. The \$5 million bond for 2020 has been set. Funds for the year were at \$2.2 million which is 75% of what the initial projections were.

Next meeting date was announced as January 13th at 4:00 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janell Sommers
Administrative Assistant